



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director

TELEPHONE: (406)444-1520

FAX: (406)444-1394

E-mail: [ckylwest@mt.gov](mailto:ckylwest@mt.gov)

P.O. BOX 1728

HELENA, MT

59624-1728

Tonya McCormack, Bureau Chief

(406)444-1376

DATE 10-7-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Montana's Minimum Wage Will Increase \$.35 in January

Pursuant to state statute Montana's minimum wage will increase from \$6.55 per hour to \$6.90 per hour effective January 1, 2009.

Montana law requires an adjustment to the minimum wage to be calculated no later than September 30 of each year. "This gives those Montanans who are struggling to keep up with higher energy and food prices some much needed help," says Commissioner Keith Kelly. "As the nation's economy continues to struggle, we know that here in Montana, we're doing everything we can to minimize the impact."

More than 70% of Montana voters supported raising Montana's minimum wage when they voted in favor of Initiative 151 that appeared on the ballot in 2006. The initiative proposed raising the state's minimum wage to be the greater of either the current state or federal minimum wage. It also added an annual cost-of-living adjustment to the state minimum wage. Under the previous law, Montana's minimum wage was equal to the federal minimum wage, which was \$5.15 an hour with no cost of living adjustment.

The increase in the minimum wage is based upon any increase in the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items (CPI) from August of the preceding year to August of the year in which the calculation is made. This amount is to be rounded to the nearest five cents.

The current minimum wage rate is \$6.55. Based on an increase in the CPI of 5.4% from August, 2007 to August, 2008, the calculation used for determining the minimum wage rate for 2009 is as follows:

$$\$6.55 \times 5.4\% = \$.35 = \$6.90$$

The federal minimum wage is set to increase to \$7.25 per hour July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For more information relating to Montana's minimum wage, log onto [www.mtwagehourbopa.com](http://www.mtwagehourbopa.com)

####